

Mr. C. Barton Wright—If I am going over the same ground again, I shall withdraw.

The resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.

President.—Now, I think we can put resolution No. 2 to the vote.

Mr. A. L. Antony.—There are various resolutions and amendments relating to the Education Department, and if we carry the main resolution that will be superseding the claims of those that have not already been moved. This may be taken up as the last.

President.—Yes.

Assistant Surgeons.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—I beg to move that “*the recommendations in para 106, namely, to divide the Assistant Surgeons' grade into two, first Rs. 150—200 and second Rs. 100—150, be not given effect to, and all the Assistant Surgeons be placed on one grade of Rs. 100—200.*”

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to second it.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I rise to support that motion.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I also support that motion.

465 **Dr. E. A. Veigas.**—I also support it.

President.—Any special reason?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—So that all may have the same benefit and not one or two.

The resolution was put and agreed to.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—Sir, I may be permitted to move motion No. 39 that “*the proposal by the Special Finance Committee that some of the existing dispensaries may be converted into aided ones should not be given effect to.*” That is a very retrograde step and since there is no time I leave it to the House to vote for the motion.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—On what ground?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Well, I shall state my reasons. If only you will go and look into the working of the existing dispensaries, you will see what amount of relief they do give to the great number of poor patients treated there day by day while our grant-in-aid dispensaries are not doing even 25% of the work done by our Sirkar dispensaries. Converting them into grant-in-aid ones means reducing the quantity of drugs supplied and also depriving the poor patients of their needs now provided in the dispensaries. Such a conversion would certainly be detrimental to the public health of the State at large. And I am sure this move, which is destructive in character and highly detrimental to the health of our rural areas, would never be accepted by the Government.

Dr. E. A. Veigas.—I support the motion.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—I also support it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I rise to oppose this motion, and I shall give you the reason why the Special Finance Committee has recommended this. We have been visiting these dispensaries and finding the number of patients attending them and we found that, unless some aided dispensaries are started, it would be impossible to give adequate aid for the rural areas. There are areas which do not require a dispensary but may do well with an aided institution. That aided institutions have come to stay not only here but all over India is evidenced by the fact, that, in British territory, the latest move is to multiply the aided institutions all over the land. The major portion of our people do not live in towns or other over-crowded places. Villages are sparsely populated all over the rural areas, and, therefore, a dispensary which is nearer to them is more useful than a very good institution at a distance. Further the aided institutions can carry on work just as a dispensary, and the only disadvantage is that a few people will not get a cushy job. But the amount spent for their pay can be utilised for the purchase of medicine and stores. The State will not be able to give adequate medical relief, unless it alters certain principles. What those principles are and whether they require any alteration or not, Government is going to learn in the near future. But the proposal is a very moderate one, and it won't affect the vested interest of the medical profession as it stands to-day, since there is no recommendation to dispense with the services of any one already in the service. I would recommend, therefore, that, as there are medical men practising in rural areas also, they may be helped by giving some Government aid to them, and in return they may be asked to treat the poor of the village. That medical men are willing to come forward is proved by the fact, that, for aided institutions that have been started lately, there have been several applicants for posts. Men with the Madras degree are willing to come forward to work these institutions, and such being the case, it seems to me, from the public point of view, from public interest and in the interests of the profession—for after all is said and done, that profession should have some sympathy in the eyes of the public—from all these points the introduction of aided institution will be very beneficial to the public, and also I may say Government will be compelled to resort to this in the near future, if they want to give adequate medical relief to the people in rural areas. These are the reasons that guided the majority of the Committee in making this recommendation and not in any spirit against the profession.

Mr. A. L. Antony.—I support the motion, Sir. The Hon'ble Member for Trichur has been saying that in the Madras Presidency and other British parts, rural aided dispensaries are multiplied. I would like to know whether any Government dispensaries which had been existing had been converted into aided ones. That is the point. If the Hon'ble Member from Trichur can substantiate this point, that in the Madras Presidency they are trying to convert existing dispensaries into aided ones, of course we can consider it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What I want to say is this system of aided institutions is beneficial to the public, and that they should hereafter be encouraged. That is all.

The resolution that the recommendation of the Committee for converting existing dispensaries into aided ones shall not be given effect to was put and agreed to.

Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to move that "*This Council recommends to the Government that a limited percentage of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons who have put in 20 years' meritorious service may be allowed to go into the grade of the Assistant Surgeon.*"

Mrs. G. Pavitran.—I second it.

President.—There is another motion on the same point by Mr. Antony.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—I withdraw that and support this motion.

Hence the following resolution of Mr. K. J. Antony was considered withdrawn:—

"The restrictions for the Sub-Assistant Surgeons to rise to the Assistant Surgeon's grade be removed and competent Sub-Assistant Surgeons be appointed in the Assistant Surgeon's grade."

The resolution of Mr. Mathew was put and agreed to.

The House rose for lunch at 2 p.m. and met again at 3 p.m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

Additional Civil Surgeon and Lady Civil Surgeon.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to move resolution No. 4. "*This Council recommends to the Government that the post of an Additional Civil Surgeon also be created for the Trichur Civil Hospital, besides the appointment of a Lady Civil Surgeon for the Mattancheri Women's Hospital.*"

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I second that. As far as I can see, an Additional Civil Surgeon is essential in an important and large town like Trichur and a Lady Civil Surgeon in the Mattancheri Women's Hospital.